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The Memphis Blues

In 1909, W. C. Handy's band was hired to boost the campaign of Edward H. Crump, who was running for mayor of Memphis. Handy dusted off an anti-Crump song, which soon became the hit tune of the election. Crump was elected and eventually got a boulevard leading to the Mississippi River named after him.

By W. C. Handy (1912)

A7 [Bm A7] D

You want to

D Em7 Ddim D7 G Gm

be my man, (gal), you got to give me for-ty dol-lars down.

D Ddim Tacet G7

you want to be my man, (gal), you'll give me for-ty dol-lars

D A7

down. If you don't be my man, (gal), your

[Bm A7] D D#dim

ba-by's gon-na shake this town. Mis-ter

A7 D

Crump don't 'low no eas-y ri-ders here,
Crump don't 'low it ain't goin' have it here,

A7 [Em6]

Crump don't 'low no eas-y ri-ders
Crump don't 'low it ain't goin' have it

F# F#7 B7

here. here. We don't care_ what Mis-ter Crump don't 'low,

E7 A7

We gon - na bar'l - house an - y how, Mis-ter { Crump don't 'low no
Crump can go and

1. D D# dim

eas - y ri - ders here. Mis - ter
catch his - self some

2. D A7 [Bm A7]

air.

D G

I'm go - in' down the riv - er go - in'
Mis - sis - sip - pi Riv - er,

G7

down to the riv - er, goin' to take my rock in' chair, Goin' to the
 Mis - sis - sip - pi Riv - er so deep and wide, I said the

C G

ri - ver, goin' to take my rock-in' chair,
 Mis - sis - sip - pi Riv - er so deep and wide,

D7 [Em7 D7]

Blues o - ver-take me, goin' to rock a - way from
 Man - I love he is on the oth - er
 (Gal) (she)

1. 2.

G D7 G G G7 Gdim Cm6 G

there. Oh, the side